

## Criteria for finding an apartment in Germany

### Length of your stay?

If you are coming to Bochum for a certain period of time, e.g. a semester, you can look for a furnished flat that is available to **sublet**. If you would like to stay in Bochum for longer, you may want a **tenancy agreement for an indefinite period of time** which you can terminate with three months' notice.

### Furnished or unfurnished?

In Germany it is very common to rent out **unfurnished** flats. Some housing portals give you the possibility to search for **furnished** flats. If it is not explicitly stated that a flat is furnished, it is not furnished (no furniture and no kitchen furniture).

### Flat or room in a shared flat?

Do you require a flat for you and your family or are you coming alone and would like to share a flat with others? If the latter is the case, you can also look for rooms in shared flats. It is mostly students who share these flats and they often search for roommates on the internet.

### Additional costs

In the flat advertisements the price for the rent does not usually include heating. You will have additional costs to pay (water, heating, electricity, telephone/internet access and television and radio).

### Searching for a flat with the help of an estate agent

The search for flats via the stated websites is free of charge. It may be the case that single flats found via the portals are being offered by an estate agent.

You can appoint an estate agent to search for a flat for you. You can find estate agents in a trade directory or via search engines by searching for "Immobilienmakler". Estate agents receive commission when a tenancy agreement is drawn up.

**By the way:** If you have not found a suitable flat in Bochum, it is worth having a look in the neighbouring towns and cities such as Herne, Witten, Hattingen, Essen or Dortmund. Due to the good transport system in the Ruhr Area, it is easy to commute.